

Fire Safety in Hotels and Motels

Office of the
State Fire Marshal
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm>



Guidelines for fire and life safety when traveling.

1

PLAN AHEAD:

- When making your reservations, ask if the hotel or motel has smoke detectors and fire sprinklers.
- When traveling, take a flashlight with you.
- Read the fire evacuation plan carefully. If one is not posted in your room, request one from the front desk.
- Locate the two exits from your room.
- Count the number of doors between your room and the exits. This will assist you in the need of an emergency evacuation.
- Put your room key near your bed where you can locate it easily
- Locate the fire alarms on your floor.
- Never smoke in bed.

2

FIRE ALARM:

- If you hear the fire alarm, evacuate, don't investigate. Leave the building immediately if possible.

3

LIFE SAFETY STEPS:

- If the fire is in your room, get out quickly. Close the door, sound the alarm and notify the front desk.
- Always use a stairwell, never an elevator. The elevator could stop at the floor of the fire.
- If the fire is not in your room, leave if it is safe to do so. Be sure to take your room key with you in case fire blocks your escape and you need to re-enter your room.
- To check the hallway for fire, touch the door with the back of your hand to test the temperature. If the door is cool, get low to the floor, brace your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Be ready to close it quickly if there are flames on the other side. Crawl low under the smoke to the nearest exit; the freshest air is near the floor.
- If your room door is hot, do not open it. Instead, seal the door with wet towels or sheets. Turn off the fans and air conditioners. Call the fire department to give your location. Signal from your window.

Resources: U.S. Fire Administration on line at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/hotel/safety_tips.cfm; National Fire Protection Association, Hotel/Motel Fire Safety Brochure